NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

April 21, 1995

MISSING ARTIFACTS RETURN TO EXHIBIT

Over the last several years, a large number of objects have been removed from our American Indian exhibits and other Anthropology-based displays for a variety of reasons: conservation, loans, research, and construction, to name a few. Normally these objects would have gone back on display as soon as they were ready. Unfortunately, the demands of building new exhibits did not leave enough staff available for such reinstallation.

That is all changing. A small, cross-departmental team has been working on this project, and we are proud to announce their first success: five Plains Indian toys have been returned to case 15 in **Indians Before Columbus.** Next on the list are an empty display in the **Jade Room**, and some of the Caitlin paintings from Indians of the Woodlands and Prairies. (The list of objects to return now stands at 447, so it will be some time before all are returned.)

We would like to thank **Pam Gaible, Chris Gross, Ruth Norton,** and **Gene Dillenburg** for spear-heading this effort, and **Mike Paha** and **Neil Keliher** for their support. If you have any questions, please contact Gene. And stay tuned for further updates.

ATTENTION THIRD FLOOR STAFF

It's that time of year again, and the Housekeeping Department is making preparations for Members' Night!

We are sending this message out to all employees on the third floor to let you know that we will be scrubbing and refinishing the hallway corridors this weekend. We will be working on the floors on the west side on both Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, 1995, from 6:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. On Saturday we will begin working on the west end and complete aisles 1,2 and 3. On Sunday, we will complete aisle 4 and the main hall leading from the North elevator to the freight elevator. These areas can not be walked on until they are completely dry! This process takes roughly four hours.

All other work requests will be completed throughout the next two weeks.

We thank you for your support for this special clean-up for Members' Night.

MS. MERIDIAN NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!

ATTENTION all Ms. Meridian voice mail users. Voice mail storage is almost to capacity! This may result in NO messages being accepted throughout the system. After listening to your voice mail messages, please clear them by pressing 76# after each one. If you are going on vacation or will be away from the Museum, please plan to have someone in your department take your messages and clear them from your voice mail. They will need your password. Thank you for your assistance.

NEW STAFF AND VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Our next new staff and volunteer orientation session will be held in Lecture Hall II on Friday, April 28 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. All recently hired staff and volunteers are cordially invited to attend as well as those who have not had the opportunity to attend in the past. The program includes refreshments, a presentation featuring guest speakers and a "behind-the-scenes" tour of the Museum! Check with your supervisor if you plan to attend, and call **Heidi** in Personnel (x531) to reserve your space today. Hope to see you there!

The *Natural News* is edited by **Richard Koontz** and **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions is Tuesday at noon.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

*LARRY HEANEY NAMED A **CHICAGO MAGAZINE** "FAMOUS UNKNOWN"*

Larry Heaney (Zoology, Mammals) is included in the May *Chicago Magazine* article "Famous Unknowns," on twenty influential, but relatively unknown Chicagoans. Larry's "claim to fame" is described as being the most famous naturalist in the Philippines. The article noted Larry's efforts to restore the Philippine park system, much of which was destroyed by clear-cutting and neglect during the reign of President Ferdinand Marcos. Larry has trained native Filipino ecologists how to manage their park system, and they in turn have taught local farmers and villagers how to use the park system's resources while also protecting the country's rich biological diversity. Larry shared the article with presidential and international business advisers, a leader in housing development, and an expert on vodou and Elvis.

ALAN RESETAR PRESENTS PROGRAM ON AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

On April 7 **Alan Resetar** (Zoology, Amphibians and Reptiles) presented a ninety minute program on the amphibians and reptiles of northwest Indiana. The program was part of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Friday evening lecture series. Sixty-four people attended the program. (After the program, several attendees suggested that Alan should moonlight as a healer at an insomnia clinic.)

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon for April 18, 1995 was given by **Dr. Scott Lanyon**, Pritzker Curator of Systematic Biology and Head, Division of Birds, Department of Zoology. Scott's topic concerned Blackbirds, biochemistry and behavior. He described how DNA sequence data are obtained and utilized to develop hypotheses of evolutionary relationship(s). His research has focused on New World Blackbirds which exhibit an extraordinary array of plumage patterns and mating systems. Although still in progress, Scott summarized his findings based on changes in the DNA sequence of cytochrome b. He presented strong data to support the resolution of five distinct groups within the New World icterids as: 1) Meadowlarks, 2) Orioles, 3) Caciques and Oropendolas, 4) South America Blackbirds and 5) North American Blackbirds (with some taxa in the Caribbean). Although relations of each of these five groups to each other is still problematic, each group represents a distinctive radiation. In terms of groupings, one of his most surprising findings concerns the Yellow-headed Blackbird and the Red-winged Blackbird, which have traditionally been considered to be very closely related. However, his molecular data unambiguously place the former in group one and the latter in group five, indicating a quite distant relationship, which in turn indicates their similar plumages and behaviours must have evolved independently. Scott discussed the importance of assessing the robustness of the data by employing a variety of approaches. A special problem arises when a group of problematic affinity is comprised of a single taxon, because reference points cannot be established. Scott discussed the implications of icterid phylogeny for previously espoused ideas of the evolution of plumage patterns and mating systems, as well as the evolution of brood parasitism. In each case, Scott indicated general perceptions have embodied misdirection, and additional studies are warranted. The ensuing discussion was most colorful.

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

TERRELL VISITS LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

By prior arrangement with Professor Kathleen Adams of Loyola University of Chicago, **John Terrell (Anthropology)** formally visited the Department of Anthropology at Loyola on the afternoon of April 6 to discuss The Field Museum's Center for Cultural Understanding and Change. John described the forthcoming Nuveen Forum conversations and the Collaborative Kinship and Adoption Project (both discussed in prior "Natural News" editions). He explained how these endeavors are instances of the Museum's efforts to build bridges and form connections with sister institutions in Chicago. John also encouraged the Anthropology faculty at Loyola to join the Museum in these and other ventures -- not only as individuals, but perhaps also by forming department-to-department links.

RECYCLING
PROGRESS REPORT

We've just completed our first month of recycling under our new program. We want to thank everyone for their cooperation. We have just a few reminders at this point:

1) *Cardboard is recyclable* provided it is not contaminated with food. Please keep it OUT of the garbage but FLATTEN the box so Housekeeping can take it to its recycling site in Shipping. Boxes must be collapsed, not smashed. If you don't already have a collection spot for flattened cardboard in your area, get together with your co-workers and designate one.

2) Are you keeping recyclables out of the garbage? ***Remember:*** *envelopes, post-its, file folders, catalogues and many more items are now recyclable.* Recycling containers shouldn't be used for garbage and should NEVER be lined with a plastic bag (this only guarantees that the objects in the container go to the garbage). If you don't have a recycling receptacle in your area, please notify your representative or be creative and make your own!

3) Talk with your co-workers to make recycling in your area more efficient and automatic.

HAPPY EARTH DAY!!

— The Recycling Committee

SEEKING THE THAW

April flowers now bring glowers:
downpours sing the mood.
Spring's arrived in clumsy fashion,
people seem to brood.

Something's missing -- something good
(though all will not agree).
Airing silly jokes and jabs
this year was not to be.

The wit that we shared openly
is now a closet game.
Shaking heads of disapproval
are, unhappily, to blame.

Laughing at ourselves together,
we can purge the winter blues.
Passing April 1st is bleak indeed
without the *Natural Gnus.*

Carrie Hageman